

REMARKS

By this amendment, Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of previously presented Claim 18. Claims 14, 15, 16 and 18 have been cancelled. New Claims 25 and 27 correspond to previously presented Claims 14 and 16, respectively, written in independent form. Claim 26 corresponds to previously presented Claim 15. Finally, new Claims 22 through 24 recite preferred embodiments of the present invention. Support for new Claims 22 and 23 can be found on page 10, lines 19-21, while support for new Claim 24 can be found on page 11, lines 25-28.

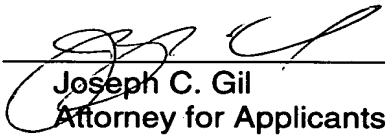
Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 14 through 16 were not rejected, but were objected to as being dependent upon rejected claims. Claims 14 and 16 have now been placed in independent form as new Claims 25 and 27, while new Claim 26 is dependent upon Claim 25. All three claims should now be allowable.

Claims 12, 13 and 17 through 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by the Ruetman et al reference (U.S. patent 4,895,894). Applicants respectfully submit that the reference does not describe the invention set forth in Claims 12, 13 17 and 19 through 24. The reference nowhere describes a prepolymer having an NCO content of from about 2 to about 4% by weight. The Examiner has indicated that the reference describes a broad range of isocyanate to isocyanate reactive groups (referring to the top of column 9). The ratio referred to in column 9 include the isocyanate reactive groups of dihydroxy alkanoic acids. the reference gives absolutely no guidelines as to the preparation of the prepolymer of the present invention. Furthermore, the reference does not describe the limitations of new claims 22 through 24. Since the reference does not describe the present invention, a rejection under 35t U.S.C. 102 is clearly improper. Reconsideration is requested.

In view of the amendments presented herein, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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